

THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *SENECIO GRACILIS* PURSH

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The type locality of *Senecio gracilis* Pursh is stated by Cronquist (in Barkley, 1978) as: "On the rocky banks of rivers, Pennsylvania.", holotype in BM. Ewan (1979) suggests the typification of *S. gracilis* may require different establishment as the locality stated by Cronquist (in Barkley, 1978) is actually Pursh's field station (Pursh, 1814). The holotype, indicated by Ewan in 1954, and the same specimen seen by Cronquist (pers. comm., 1981), is a specimen in the Banks Herbarium at BM, catalogued by D. Solander, Banks' librarian, under number 28 on page 715 of Solander's manuscript catalog, as "*Senecio strictus*". Solander states in his catalog that it was received from J. Bartram. Solander cites the range of "*Senecio strictus*", quoting from Bartram, as "habitat in montosis America septentrionalis". Although this specimen probably originated in Pennsylvania (Bartram furnished Banks a number of Pennsylvania herbarium specimens), Bartram's locality citation stands as the type locality of *S. gracilis*. The type locality of *S. gracilis* can not be limited to Pennsylvania.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the type specimen of *Senecio gracilis* is labeled on the back "Hudson's Bay: Albany Fort, 1781", collector unknown. Labeling on the back of herbarium sheets was a frequent custom of the 18th century. The type specimen of *S. gracilis* is of a morphology unknown from Hudson Bay but frequent in Pennsylvania. It is reported by Bartram in Solander's catalog as flowering in May, much too early for a Hudson Bay *Senecio* but timely for a Pennsylvania specimen. The possibility of confused labeling of the Pursh type specimen must be considered.

There are two other specimens in the Solander catalog of the Banks Herbarium, both under number 27 on page 715, which are labeled on the back "Hudson's Bay, 1773", collector unknown, and which appear to be duplicates. Both are annotated *Senecio pauperculus* Michx by Ewan, and I concur. Both specimens are entered by Solander in his catalog as received from Bartram, who assigned them the same locality as that for the type specimen of *S. gracilis*. Both specimens are probably from Pennsylvania, with the Hudson

Bay label probably affixed in error. Solander included both specimens in his "*Senecio strictus*", though these and the type specimen of *S. gracilis* are obviously different taxa.

A fourth specimen catalogued by Solander as "*Senecio strictus*" was collected by J. Banks in Newfoundland in 1766. Someone wrote the name *S. gracilis* on the sheet but it was later annotated as *S. pauperculus* by J. Greenman. Lysaght (1971) dismissed this specimen from consideration as the type *S. gracilis* since it did not originate with J. Bartram as cited in Solander's protolog of "*Senecio strictus*".

The reason I have delineated the type locality of *Senecio gracilis* is that I believe its modern equivalent, *S. aureus* var. *gracilis* (Pursh) Hook., should be recognized despite its submergence by Barkley (1962, 1978). Barkley (1962) first proposed this submergence with reservation, recommending the variety be restudied.

What I have seen of this variety in the field (Virginia) reveals a distinct biotype, characterized by reduced elongate, ovate, cuneate, to subcordate basal leaves, narrow praemorse rhizomes, giving rise to slender single stems topped with strict corymbs bearing few, small heads. Some specimens (Virginia and North Carolina) have sparse short stiff white hairs on the veins of the undersides of basal leaves and leaf tufts. This is not evident on the type as the counterparts are entirely pasted down. The habitat of var. *gracilis* appears to be calcareous sedgy meadows. It has a definite range, as stated by Fernald (1950).

Immature and depauperate herbarium specimens of *Senecio aureus* var. *aureus* (under which name I include all other varieties of this species *sensu* Fernald, 1950) may be superficially confused with var. *gracilis*, which may account for recent tendencies to submerge the latter. The habitat of the typical variety generally differs: bogs, swamps, and wooded areas near water. It may occasionally invade calcareous sites but seems to prefer acidic or neutral habitats.

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